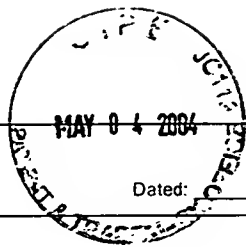


Express Mail Label No. _____ Dated: _____



Docket No.: 03191/000J921-US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
John V. Comfort et al.

Application No.: 09/996,256

Filed: November 28, 2001

For: COMPLIANT LINK

Art Unit: 3682

Examiner: C. H. Kim

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MAY 13 2004

GROUP 3600

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

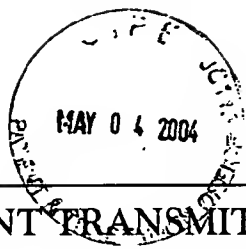
In response to the Office Action dated January 28, 2004 (Paper No. 11), please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 5 of this paper.



AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Docket No.
03191/000J921-US0

Application No.
09/996,256

Filing Date
November 28, 2001

Examiner
C. H. Kim

Art Unit
3682

Applicant(s): John V. Comfort et al.

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Invention: COMPLIANT LINK

GROUP 3600

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.

The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.

CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	Claims Remaining After Amendment	Highest Number Previously Paid	Number Extra Claims Present	Rate	
Total Claims	7	- 20 =		x	0.00
Independent Claims	1	- 3 =		x	0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					
Other fee (please specify):					
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT:					0.00

☒ Large Entity

☐ Small Entity

☒ No additional fee is required for this amendment.

☐ Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____.
A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

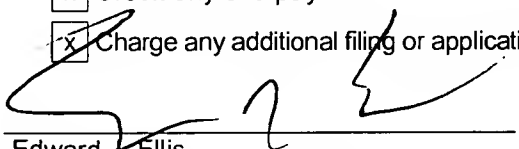
☐ A check in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.

☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.

☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 04-0100
as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

☒ Credit any overpayment.

☒ Charge any additional filing or application processing fees required under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17.


Edward J. Ellis
Attorney Reg. No.: 40,389

Dated: May 4, 2004

DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 5257
New York, New York 10150-5257
(212) 527-7783

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